

REMARKS:

Claims 1-4, 7-9, and 12-14 have been canceled to prosecute the claims restricted out of the parent case. Claims 5, 6, 10, 11, 15, and 16 were all dependent claims in the original application. The amendments to claims 5, 6, 10, 11, 15, and 16 are to incorporate all of the limitations of each original independent claim in which each of these claims depended from in the original parent application.

The amendment to the specification is made to identify the parent application, and to properly claim an earlier effective filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120.

The amendments do not introduce new matter within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §132 and applicant asserts that basis of the subject matter contained in the claim amendments can be found in the specification. Accordingly, entry of the amendments prior to examination is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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ATTACHMENT A

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A hybrid stencil printing apparatus comprising:

a stencil-making/printing unit configured to perforate a stencil sheet corresponding to a desired image, to wind the stencil sheet around an outer peripheral surface of a print drum, and to transfer a printing medium to the print drum with pressure, thereby printing the printing medium;

an other-method image-formation unit configured to print the printing medium transferred on a same transfer passage as the stencil-making/printing unit according to a different printing method from the stencil-making/printing unit; and

an image-formation unit selection-unit configured to input an original digital image, to determine attributes of image portions of the inputted original digital image, and to allocate each image portion selectively to the stencil-making/printing unit and the other-method image-formation unit based on the determination result[[]]; ~~The hybrid stencil printing apparatus according to claim 1,~~ wherein

the image-formation unit selection-unit determines whether each image portion of the original digital image is a vector or bit-map image, allocates the vector image portions to the stencil-making/printing unit, and allocates the bit-map image portions to the other-method image-formation unit.

6. (Currently Amended) A hybrid stencil printing apparatus comprising: a stencil-making/printing unit configured to perforate a stencil sheet corresponding to a desired image, to wind the stencil sheet around an outer peripheral surface of a print drum, and to transfer a printing medium to the print drum with pressure, thereby printing the printing medium;

an other-method image-formation unit configured to print the printing medium transferred on a same transfer passage as the stencil-making/printing unit according to a different printing method from the stencil-making/printing unit; and

an image-formation unit selection-unit configured to input an original digital image, to determine attributes of image portions of the inputted original digital image, and to allocate each image portion selectively to the stencil-making/printing unit and the other-method image-formation unit based on the determination result[[]]; and ~~The hybrid stencil printing apparatus according to claim 1,~~ further comprising:

a manual image allocating unit configured to allocate the image portions of the original digital image selectively to the stencil-making/printing unit and the other-method image-formation unit manually based on the desires of a user; wherein

the image-formation unit selection-unit determines color attributes of each image portion of the original digital image, determines whether the image portion is a vector or bit-map image, allocates the vector image portions in a color which ink in the stencil-making/printing unit is capable of treating to the stencil-making/printing unit; allocates the bit-map image portions in a color which the ink in the stencil-making/printing unit is incapable of treating to the other-method image-formation unit; allocates the bit-map image portions in the color which the ink in the stencil-making/printing unit is capable of treating to the image-formation unit allocated by the

manual image allocating unit; and allocates the vector image portions in the color which the ink in the stencil-making/printing unit is incapable of treating to the image-formation unit allocated by the manual image allocating unit.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling a hybrid stencil printing apparatus, the hybrid stencil printing apparatus including a stencil-making/printing unit and an other-method image-formation unit, the method comprising:

inputting an original digital image, determining attributes of image portions of the inputted original digital image, and allocating each image portion selectively to the stencil-making/printing unit and the other-method image-formation unit based on the determination result;

perforating a stencil sheet corresponding to the image allocated to the stencil-making/printing unit, winding the stencil sheet around an outer peripheral surface of a print drum, and transferring a printing medium to the print drum with pressure and thereby printing the printing medium, in the stencil-making/printing unit; and

printing the image allocated to the other-method image-formation unit on the printing medium according to a different printing method from the stencil-making/printing unit in the other-method image-formation unit[[.]]; ~~The method according to claim 8, wherein~~

in said allocation of the image portion, whether each image portion of the original digital image is vector or bit-map image

is determined, the vector image portions are allocated to the stencil-making/printing unit, and the bit-map image portions are allocated to the other-method image-formation unit.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling a hybrid stencil printing apparatus, the hybrid stencil printing apparatus including a stencil-making/printing unit and an other-method image-formation unit, the method comprising:

inputting an original digital image, determining attributes of image portions of the inputted original digital image, and allocating each image portion selectively to the stencil-making/printing unit and the other-method image-formation unit based on the determination result;

perforating a stencil sheet corresponding to the image allocated to the stencil-making/printing unit, winding the stencil sheet around an outer peripheral surface of a print drum, and transferring a printing medium to the print drum with pressure and thereby printing the printing medium, in the stencil-making/printing unit; and

printing the image allocated to the other-method image-formation unit on the printing medium according to a different printing method from the stencil-making/printing unit in the other-method image-formation unit[[]]; and ~~The method according to claim 8,~~ further comprising:

manually allocating the image portions in the original digital image selectively to the stencil-making/printing unit and the other-method image-formation unit based on the desires of a user; wherein

in said allocation of the image portion, color attributes of each image portion of the original digital image are determined, whether the image is of a vector or of bit-map image is determined, the vector image portions in a color which ink in the stencil-making/printing unit is capable of treating are

allocated to the stencil-making/printing unit, the bit-map image portions of a color which the ink in the stencil-making/printing unit is incapable of treating are allocated to the other-method image-formation unit, the bit-map image portions in the color which the ink of the stencil-making/printing unit is capable of treating are allocated to the image-formation unit allocated by the manual image allocation, and the vector image portions in the color which the ink of the stencil-making/printing unit is incapable of treating are allocated to the image-formation unit allocated by the manual image allocation.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable recording medium, recording a program for controlling a hybrid stencil printing apparatus, the hybrid stencil printing apparatus including a stencil-making/printing unit and an other-method image-formation unit, the program comprising:

inputting an original digital image, determining attributes of image portions of the inputted original digital image, and allocating each image portion selectively to the stencil-making/printing unit and the other-method image-formation unit based on the determination result;

perforating a stencil sheet corresponding to the image allocated to the stencil-making/printing unit, winding the stencil sheet around an outer peripheral surface of a print drum, and transferring a printing medium to the print drum with pressure and thereby printing the printing medium, in the stencil-making/printing unit; and

printing the image allocated to the other-method image-formation unit on the printing medium according to a different printing method from the stencil-making/printing unit in the other-method image-formation unit[[]]; ~~The recording medium according to claim 13,~~

the program wherein in said allocation of the image portion, whether each image portion of the original digital image is vector or bit-map image is determined, the vector image portions are allocated to the stencil-making/printing unit, and the bit-map image portions are allocated to the other-method image-formation unit.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable recording medium, recording a program for controlling a hybrid stencil printing apparatus, the hybrid stencil printing apparatus including a stencil-making/printing unit and an other-method image-formation unit, the program comprising:

inputting an original digital image, determining attributes of image portions of the inputted original digital image, and allocating each image portion selectively to the stencil-making/printing unit and the other-method image-formation unit based on the determination result;

perforating a stencil sheet corresponding to the image allocated to the stencil-making/printing unit, winding the stencil sheet around an outer peripheral surface of a print drum, and transferring a printing medium to the print drum with pressure and thereby printing the printing medium, in the stencil-making/printing unit; and

printing the image allocated to the other-method image-formation unit on the printing medium according to a different printing method from the stencil-making/printing unit in the other-method image-formation unit[[]]; ~~The recording medium according to claim 13,~~ the program further comprising:

manually allocating the image portions in the original digital image selectively to the stencil-making/printing unit and the other-method image-formation unit based on the desires of a user; wherein

in said allocation of the image portion, color attributes of each image portion of the original digital image are determined, whether the image portion is of a vector or of bit-map image is determined, the vector image portions in a color which ink in the stencil-making/printing unit is capable of treating are allocated to the stencil-making/printing unit, the bit-map image portions in a color which the ink in the stencil-making/printing unit is incapable of treating are allocated to the other-method image-formation unit, the bit-map image portions in the color which the ink of the stencil-making/printing unit is capable of treating are allocated to the image-formation unit allocated by the manual image allocation, and the vector image portions in the color which the ink of the stencil-making/printing unit is incapable of treating are allocated to the image-formation unit allocated by the manual image allocation.

ATTACHMENT B

This application is a Divisional of Application Serial
Number 09/983,345 filed October 24, 2001.